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Annual ministerial review: strengthening efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger, including through the global partnership for development

Statement submitted by the *Fondation Mohammed V*, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2007/100 and Corr.1.

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Statement

We the Ministers of the Niger, the Dominican Republic and Morocco, meeting in Rabat on the occasion of the International Seminar on the testing and validation of teaching modules for physical education and sports (PES) geared to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs);

Recalling the Millennium Declaration signed by our heads of State in September 2000, followed in 2001 by the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) adopted by the United Nations Economic and Social Council and General Assembly;

Recalling the working session of the World Sports Alliance (WSA) during the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council session, on the topic "Creation at the national and international level of an environment favourable to full productive employment and decent work for all, and a study of its impact on sustainable development", held in July 2006 in Geneva, and its commitment to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals;

Recalling the regional round tables in Paris, Algiers, Brasilia and Beijing organized by the International Association of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions (IAESCSI) and the Action Platform adopted by IAESCSI in Madrid on 8 June 2006, concerning the creation of a world centre of excellence for MDG teacher training in Geneva, and the creation of regional and national centres for the same purpose;

Recalling the Expert Workshop organized by the United Nations Non-Governmental Organizations Section and WSA, held in New York from 11 to 14 September 2006, which emphasized the importance of incorporating the MDGs and the Millennium Declaration in education and PES teacher training;

Recalling the work and studies conducted by WSA since October 2006, for the purpose of developing education and training tools and modules incorporating the MDGs in physical education and sports training;

Recalling the understanding reached between WSA and UN-NGO-IRENE for the creation of IAESCSI centres of excellence and the organization of WSA community and sports centres, for the creation of the world MDG award and for support to NGO networks involved in MDG dissemination and teacher training;

Having observed the important progress, teaching materials and achievements of WSA;

Note with satisfaction the organization by WSA, UN-NGO-IRENE and IAESCSI and the holding of the first international seminar in Rabat on the testing of training modules and tools incorporating the MDGs in the teaching of physical education and sports, which will be disseminated worldwide;

Recommend that these MDG/PES training tools and modules should be submitted to a validation session by the Academic Council of the Geneva Centre of Excellence, at its next Geneva substantive session, in July 2007, on the occasion of the high-level segment of the session of the Economic and Social Council and that new teaching modules should be designed and developed covering other Millennium Development Goals;

Welcome the admission of the Niger, the Dominican Republic and Morocco to membership of the intergovernmental organization WSA, as the first three countries that will be part of the pilot project in Africa and Latin America for the creation of WSA community and sports centres designed to continue the centres of excellence at the local level;

Appreciate the decision of Morocco to become the first regional centre of excellence for Africa providing MDG teacher training and emphasize the decision of our own countries to host and develop the first national MDG centres of excellence in the Niger, the Dominican Republic and Morocco;

Encourage other countries in Africa, Lain America and throughout the world to create their MDG centres of excellence and to join WSA in order to create WSA community and sports centres locally and encourage WSA to contribute actively, together with IAESCSI and UN-NGO-IRENE, to the creation of the world MDG centre of excellence in Geneva, in July 2007, so that our national and regional centres of excellence can benefit from its work, expertise and validation of MDG training programmes;

Thank the *Fondation Mohammed V* for agreeing to present to the Economic and Social Council at its July 2007 session the result of the work of this seminar on the topic of the high-level segment for 2007: "Strengthening efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger, including through the global partnership for development".